

### **In the Claims**

Claims 1 – 19 (Cancelled)

20. (New) A connecting element for a spinal fixing system that connects at least two implantable connection assemblies comprising: a rod comprising a flexible part extended at one end at least by a rigid part, the flexible part comprising a cable at least partly surrounded by a polymer envelope, the cable comprising at least one elastic strand coaxial with the envelope.

21. (New) The connecting element according to claim 20, wherein the rigid part has a blind cavity that at least partly receives the cable.

22. (New) The connecting element according to claim 20, wherein the rigid part has a through cavity that at least partly receives the cable.

23. (New) The connecting element according to claim 21 or claim 22, wherein the cavity is configured to cooperate with the cable.

24. (New) The connecting element according to claim 21 or claim 22, wherein the cavity has a zone widened in the direction of an end receiving the cable.

25. (New) The connecting element according to claim 20, wherein the flexible part is fixed to the rigid part by adhesive bonding, crimping or welding.

26. (New) The connecting element according to claim 20, wherein the cable comprises at least one layer of at least 6 strands, the strands being distributed around the central strand.

27. (New) The connecting element according to claim 20, wherein the cable comprises two successive layers of strands disposed around the central strand, the first layer of strands surrounding the central strand comprising 6 strands, the second layer of strands surrounding the first layer comprising 12 strands.

28. (New) The connecting element according to claim 26 or claim 27, wherein the strands

constituting the layer or layers comprises strands twisted around the central strand.

29. (New) The connecting element according to claim 26 or claim 27, wherein the strands of the layer or layers are formed from a material different from that of the central strand.

30. (New) The connecting element according to claim 26 or claim 27, wherein the central strand has a diameter different from that of strands of the layer or layers.

31. (New) The connecting element according to claim 26 or claim 27, wherein the strands of the layer or layers are made of titanium or stainless steel, or titanium-nickel alloy.

32. (New) The connecting element according to claim 20, wherein the central strand is tubular.

33. (New) The connecting element according to claim 20, wherein the central strand is formed from an alloy of nickel-titanium, titanium, stainless steel or polymer.

34. (New) The connecting element according to claim 33, wherein the central strand is made from PEEK or polyurethane.

35. (New) The connecting element according to claim 20, wherein the envelope is made from polyurethane.

36. (New) The connecting element according to claim 20, wherein the envelope is made from PEEK.

37. (New) The connecting element according to claim 20, wherein the envelope is made of a biocompatible fabric.

38. (New) A spinal fixing system comprising at least two implantable connection assemblies connected by at least one connecting element according to claim 20.